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Gov.-elect Dunleavy names Alaska GOP chairman as his chief of staff

Author: [Annie Zak, Tegan Hanlon](#) Updated: November 9, 2018

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Gov.-elect Mike Dunleavy speaks to reporters after announcing his first cabinet picks Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018 at the Alaska Miners Association convention. (Loren Holmes / ADN)

Alaska's next governor, Republican Mike Dunleavy, announced Thursday that he had selected Tuckerman Babcock to be his chief of staff when he takes office next month. Babcock was the chairman of

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the Alaska Republican Party, and resigned from that position at 2 p.m.

Dunleavy made the announcement at the Alaska Miners Association annual convention in downtown Anchorage, during a speech that also focused on resource development. It was his first high-profile appearance since Tuesday's election.

"I want to let you know that Alaska is open for business," he told the crowd. People responded with applause and cheers. "I'll say that again — Alaska is open for business."

He said he wants "more Red Dogs, more Pogos, more Kensingtons," referring to mines around the state.

"I mean this state, in my opinion, if everything works out, is gonna be humming here in just a few years. ... You're going to have to put on your seatbelts because it's not going to be a slow crawl. We're gonna pick up speed here real fast."

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About this Author

Annie Zak

Annie Zak was a business reporter for the ADN between 2015 and 2019.

Tegan Hanlon

Tegan Hanlon was a reporter for the Anchorage Daily News between 2013 and 2019. She now reports for Alaska Public Media.



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